

Douglas Mine and Mill site: Sampling Continues

This year, crews will perform ongoing water sampling at the old Douglas Mine and Mill. Sampling will check on water quality. Monitoring wells will be sampled several times during the year at varying water levels. Last year, data collection was completed. The data will inform a cleanup design that will protect people's health and the environment. Construction is slated to start and finish in 2022. Access to the site will be restricted when work begins.

The Douglas Mine and Mill Site is located along the East Fork of Pine Creek, south of Pinehurst. The site was discovered in 1898, with ore production beginning in 1916. During its life, the site produced more than 100,000 tons of ore, mainly lead, zinc, and silver.

Most recently, visitors have used the Douglas site for recreational activities like motorcycle and ATV riding, camping, and target shooting. These activities pose health risks, because metals in the dust and soil can be breathed in or swallowed. Metals-contaminated materials along the creek can dissolve, and harm water quality. In 2019, the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust, under EPA's direction, started sampling and testing at the site to help find out how much contamination exists. Crews dug test pits, installed sampling wells, and performed X-Ray diffraction surveys.

EPA will work closely with the CDA Work Trust to incorporate up-to-date guidance on reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19 during project activities.



An old outbuilding once at the Douglas site.

We know this work poses an inconvenience to residents. Thank you for your patience while we complete these projects. Please contact us if you have concerns.

For more information


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Cleanup Website: epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill

Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, call Debra Sherbina at 206-553-0247.

 *TTY users, call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 and ask for Debra at 206-553-0247.*